

© 1999 Blackwell Science Ltd *Journal of Internal Medicine* 245: 391–397

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INSURING DELIVERY OF ELECTRONIC
DOCUMENTS IN A NETWORK DATA PROCESSING SYSTEM

A method, apparatus, and computer implementable instructions for insuring delivery of an electronic document in a data processing system. A request is received from a requestor to insure delivery of the electronic document. In response to receiving the request, a payment amount to insure delivery is identified based on network characteristics of a network in which the electronic document is to be transmitted. An acknowledgment of the electronic document is sent to the requestor, wherein the acknowledgment includes the payment amount. The electronic document is delivered in response to receiving a reply to the acknowledgment from the requestor accepting the identification of the payment amount. The requestor is notified of a successful delivery of the electronic document in response to receiving an acknowledgment from the recipient.